

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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SILVIO HURTADO, individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

CIVIL ACTION NO.

Plaintiff,
-against-

COMPLAINT

NUNZIO & SONS BAKERY CORP. D/B/A NAPOLI BAKERY
and NUNZIO CIRONE,

Defendants.
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Plaintiff Silvio Hurtado, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by his attorneys, Katz Melinger PLLC, complaining of the defendants, Nunzio & Sons Bakery Corp. d/b/a Napoli Bakery (“NSB”) and Nunzio Cirone (together, “Defendants”), respectfully alleges as follows:

I. Nature of Action, Jurisdiction, and Venue

1. This is an action seeking equitable and legal relief for Defendants’ violations of the (the “FLSA”); New York Labor Law §§ 190 *et seq.* and 650 *et seq.* (the “NYLL”); and 12 NYCRR 146.

2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that this is an action arising under the FLSA.

3. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the claims arising under New York state law pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, in that the New York state law claims are so closely related to Plaintiff’s federal claims as to form the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

4. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, as a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this judicial district, and

Defendants conduct business through its employees, including Plaintiff, within this judicial district.

II. Parties

5. Plaintiff is an individual residing in the State of New York.

6. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was a covered employee within the meaning of the FLSA and the NYLL.

7. NSB is a domestic corporation with its principal place of business located at 616 Metropolitan Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11211.

8. NSB is an Italian style bakery that sells sandwiches, bread, and other food products.

9. Upon information and belief, Cirone is an individual residing in the State of New York.

10. Cirone, during all relevant times, was and still is, an owner, officer, and/or person in control of NSB, who exercises significant control over NSB's operations; has the authority to hire, fire, and discipline employees; set employees' work schedules and conditions of employment; determine the rate and method of payment for employees; and maintain employment records.

11. At all relevant times, Defendants were responsible for setting Plaintiff's schedule, determining his day-to-day activities, and supervising his performance.

12. At all relevant times, Defendants had the power to discipline and terminate Plaintiff.

13. At all relevant times, Defendants were responsible for compensating Plaintiff.

14. Defendants exercised sufficient control over Plaintiff's day-to-day operations to be considered his employers for the purposes of the FLSA and NYLL.

15. Defendants are covered employers within the meaning of the FLSA and the NYLL and, at all relevant times, employed Plaintiff.

16. Upon information and belief, at all relevant times, Defendants' gross revenues were in excess of \$500,000.00 per year.

17. Defendants operate in interstate commerce.

18. Defendants are subject to suit under the statutes alleged above.

III. FLSA Collective Action Allegations

19. The First Cause of Action in this Complaint, which arises out of the FLSA, is brought by Plaintiff on behalf of himself and similarly situated persons who were employed since the date three (3) years prior to the filing of this Complaint, and who elect to opt-in to this action (the "FLSA Collective Plaintiffs").

20. The FLSA Collective Plaintiffs consist of no less than ten (10) similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been victims of Defendants' common policies and practices that have violated their rights under the FLSA by, *inter alia*, willfully denying them overtime compensation.

21. As part of their regular business practices, Defendants have intentionally, willfully, and repeatedly harmed Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs by engaging in a pattern, practice, and/or policy of violating the FLSA. This policy and pattern or practice includes, *inter alia*, failing to pay overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

22. Defendants have engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation.

23. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been intentional, willful, and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs.

24. The FLSA Collective Plaintiffs would benefit from the issuance of a court-supervised notice of the lawsuit and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants, are readily identifiable, and are locatable through Defendants' records. These similarly situated employees should be notified of and allowed to opt-in to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

IV. Factual Allegations

25. Plaintiff worked for Defendants as a bread maker from in or around January 1, 2002 until on or around April 16, 2022.

26. As a bread maker, Plaintiff's job duties included, *inter alia*, sanitizing work areas, making the dough for the bread, and cooking the bread according to Defendants' recipes.

27. From the beginning of his employment until on around February 16, 2022, other than June 2020, Plaintiff regularly worked six (6) days per week: Monday through Wednesdays, and Saturdays from approximately 3:30 p.m. to approximately 1:30 a.m.; and Thursday through Fridays from approximately 3:30 p.m. to approximately 2:30 a.m., for a total of approximately sixty two (62) hours worked per week.

28. During June 2020, Plaintiff worked three (3) days for one week of the month and four (4) days for the remaining three weeks. On each day he worked, Plaintiff worked from approximately 1:30 p.m. to approximately 1:30 a.m., for a total of thirty-six (36) hours for one week of June 2020, and a total of forty-eight (48) hours per week for three weeks in June 2020.

29. From on or around March 11, 2022 until on or around May 15, 2022, Plaintiff had a varied scheduled but on average worked four days per week. Plaintiff worked from approximately 1:30 p.m. to approximately 1:30 a.m. for a total of forty-eight (48) hours per week.

30. Defendants did not have sufficient work to employ Plaintiff during the following limited time periods: between 2021 and 2022: From on or around January 5, 2021 until on or around March 1, 2021; from on or around April 21, 2021 until on or around May 1, 2021; from on or around February 17, 2022 until on or around March 11, 2022; and from on or around March 18, 2022 until on or around April 13, 2022. Plaintiff's employment was otherwise continuous

31. Throughout his employment with Defendants, Plaintiff was not afforded meal or rest breaks during his shifts.

32. Defendants did not track or otherwise record the hours Plaintiff worked throughout his employment.

33. From in or around January 1, 2002 until in or around January 2019, Defendants compensated Plaintiff at a fixed rate of \$100.00 per day, regardless of the number of hours Plaintiff worked.

34. From in or around January 2019 until on or around March 11, 2022, Defendants compensated Plaintiff at a fixed rate of \$120.00 per day, regardless of the number of hours Plaintiff worked.

35. From on or around March 11, 2022 until the end of his employment, Defendants compensated Plaintiff at a fixed rate of \$140.00 per day, regardless of the number of hours Plaintiff worked.

36. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs were non-exempt employees under the FLSA, and were entitled to overtime compensation of 1.5 times their regular hourly rate or the applicable minimum wage, whichever is greater, for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

37. Although Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs regularly worked more than forty (40) hours per week during their employment with Defendants, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs with the proper overtime wages at a rate of 1.5 times their regular hourly rate or the statutory minimum wage, whichever is higher, for every hour worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

38. Plaintiff was also a non-exempt employee under the NYLL, and was entitled to New York State minimum wages, spread of hours pay, and overtime compensation.

39. Based on Plaintiff's compensation and hours worked per week, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff the applicable New York state minimum wage rate throughout Plaintiff's employment.

40. Further, although Plaintiff regularly worked shifts that spanned more than ten (10) hours per day, Defendants failed to compensate Plaintiff with an additional hour's pay at the minimum wage rate for every day in which his shift exceeded a spread of ten (10) hours.

41. Defendants also failed to furnish Plaintiff with a payroll notice at the time of his hire containing allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; the "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; the telephone number of the employer or any other information required by NYLL § 195 (1).

42. Defendants further failed to furnish Plaintiff with each wage payment, an accurate statement listing Plaintiff's regular and overtime rates of pay and the accurate number of regular and overtime hours worked, or any other information required by NYLL § 195(3).

43. Defendants violated federal and state law by willfully failing to pay Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs the applicable overtime wages for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week; by failing to pay Plaintiff the applicable New York State minimum wage; by failing to provide Plaintiff with spread of hour wages; and by failing to provide Plaintiff with the wage statements and payroll notices required by the NYLL.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF,
INDIVIDUALLY, AND THE FLSA COLLECTIVE PLAINTIFFS**
(Overtime Violations under the FLSA)

44. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs, repeats and realleges all prior allegations set forth above.

45. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the FLSA, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs were entitled to overtime compensation of one and one-half (1.5) times their regular hourly rates of pay or the minimum wage, whichever is greater, for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

46. Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs regularly worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week during their employment with Defendants.

47. Throughout the relevant period, Defendants knowingly failed to pay Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs overtime wages of one and one-half (1.5) times their regular hourly rates of pay or the minimum wage, whichever is greater, for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

48. As a result of Defendants' violations of the law and failure to pay Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs the required overtime wages, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs have been damaged and are entitled to recover from Defendants all overtime wages due, along with all reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs.

49. As Defendants did not have a good faith basis to believe that their failure to pay overtime wages was in compliance with the law, Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs are entitled to liquidated damages.

50. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs and against Defendants on the First Cause of Action in the amount of their respective unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and such other legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Overtime Violations under the NYLL)

51. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations set forth above.

52. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the NYLL, Plaintiff was entitled to overtime compensation of one and one-half (1.5) times his regular hourly rate of pay or the minimum wage, whichever is greater, for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

53. Plaintiff regularly worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week during his employment with Defendants.

54. Throughout the relevant period, Defendants knowingly failed to pay Plaintiff overtime wages of one and one-half (1.5) times his regular hourly rate of pay or the minimum wage, whichever is greater, for each hour worked in excess of forty (40) per week.

55. As a result of Defendants' violations of the law and failure to pay Plaintiff the required overtime wages, Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to recover from Defendants all overtime wages due, along with all reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs.

56. As Defendants did not have a good faith basis to believe that their failure to pay overtime wages was in compliance with the law, Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages.

57. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Second Cause of Action in the amount of Plaintiff's unpaid overtime wages, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and such other legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Minimum Wages Violations under the NYLL)

58. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations set forth above.

59. Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the NYLL, Plaintiff was entitled to receive at least the statutory minimum wages for all hours worked.

60. Throughout the relevant period, Defendants knowingly failed to pay Plaintiff at least the statutory minimum wages for all of the hours he worked.

61. As a result of Defendants' violations of the law and failure to pay Plaintiff the required minimum wages, Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to recover from Defendants all wages due, along with all reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs.

62. As Defendants did not have a good faith basis to believe that their failure to pay minimum wages was in compliance with the law, Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages.

63. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Third Cause of Action in the amount of Plaintiff's unpaid minimum wages, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and such other legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Spread of Hours Violations under the NYLL)

64. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations.

65. Plaintiff regularly worked shifts that spanned more than ten (10) hours per day.

66. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiff additional compensation of one (1) hour's pay at the basic minimum hourly wage rate for each day during which he worked a spread of more than ten (10) hours.

67. By Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff spread of hours pay, Defendants have willfully violated NYLL Article 19, §§ 650, *et seq.*, and the supporting New York State Department of Labor Regulations, including, but not limited to the Hospitality Industry Wage Order, 12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§ 146-1.6.

68. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Fourth Cause of Action in the amount of Plaintiff's unpaid spread of hours wages, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and such other legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Failure to Timely Pay Wages under the NYLL)

69. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations.

70. Pursuant to the provisions of NYLL § 191(1)(a)(i), Plaintiff was entitled to be paid his earned wages weekly and not later than seven (7) calendar days after the end of the week in which the wages were earned.

71. During the relevant period, Defendants routinely failed to pay Plaintiff all of his earned wages in accordance with the agreed-upon terms of employment.

72. During the relevant period, Defendants failed to timely pay Plaintiff all of his earned wages on a weekly basis and not later than seven (7) calendar days after the end of the week in which the wages were earned.

73. Throughout the relevant period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff all overtime and spread of hours wages earned by Plaintiff, in violation of NYLL § 191(1)(a)(i).

74. As a result of Defendants' violations of the law and failure to pay Plaintiff in accordance with NYLL § 191(1)(a)(i), Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to recover from Defendants all wages due, along with all reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs.

75. As Defendants did not have a good faith basis to believe that their failure to pay wages was in compliance with the law, Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages.

76. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Fifth Cause of Action for all wages due, liquidated damages, attorneys' fees, costs, interest, and such other legal and equitable relief as this Court deems just and proper.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Failure to Provide Payroll Notices Under the NYLL)

77. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations.

78. Throughout the relevant time period, Defendants failed to furnish to Plaintiff, with each wage payment, a statement listing: Plaintiff's regular and overtime rates of pay; the accurate number of regular and overtime hours worked; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; and net wages; in violation of NYLL § 195(3).

79. As Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with wage statements as required by NYLL § 195(3), Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages in the amount of \$250.00 per day for every day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, and all reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

80. Judgment should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Sixth Cause of Action in the amount of \$250.00 per day for every day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, along with all reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

AS AND FOR AN SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF
(Failure to Provide Wage Statements under the NYLL)

81. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all prior allegations.

82. Defendants failed to furnish to Plaintiff, at the time of hire or at any time thereafter, notices containing the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof; allowances, if any claimed as part of the minimum wage; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; the “doing business as” names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer’s main or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; the telephone number of the employer or any other information required by NYLL § 195(1).

83. As Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff with a payroll notice as required by NYLL § 195(1), Plaintiff is entitled to liquidated damages in the amount of \$50.00 per day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, and all reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

84. Judgement should be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants on the Seventh Cause of Action in the amount of \$50.00 per day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, along with all reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

a) on the First Cause of Action on behalf of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs for all overtime wages due to Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs, liquidated damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;

b) on the Second Cause of Action for all overtime wages due to Plaintiff, liquidated damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;

c) on the Third Cause of Action for all minimum wages due to Plaintiff, liquidated damages, and reasonable attorneys’ fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;

- d) on the Fourth Cause of Action for all spread of hours wages due to Plaintiff, liquidated damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;
- e) on the Fifth Cause of Action for all wages due to Plaintiff, liquidated damages, and all reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;
- f) on the Sixth Cause of Action for liquidated damages in the amount of \$250.00 per day for every day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, along with reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;
- g) on the Seventh Cause of Action for liquidated damages in the amount of \$50.00 per day in which the violation occurred, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00, along with reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by this Court;
- h) interest;
- i) costs and disbursements; and
- j) such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
October 13, 2022

/s/ Eliseo Cabrera
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